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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/889,324  
Applicant : Shizuo AKIRA et al.  
Filed : July 13, 2001  
Art Unit : 1636 ✓  
Examiner : Qian, Celine X  
Docket No. : 31671-173143  
Customer No. : 26694

**Amendment**

Mail Stop Non-fee Amendments  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action issued, September 22, 2004, please enter the following amendments and consider the remarks below.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 16.

It is not believed that any fees are necessary. If the Patent Office deems that any fees are necessary, authorization is hereby granted to charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.